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**Assistant Secretary for Ocean and Coastal Policy to Receive NOAA Award
For Excellence in Coastal and Marine Resources Management**

Sacramento, Calif. – California Resources Agency Assistant Secretary for Coastal and Ocean Policy Brian Baird will be honored Feb. 27 for his coastal and marine management efforts. Baird is one of two individuals selected to receive the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Susan Snow-Cotter Award at a ceremony in Washington, D.C.

Baird will be acknowledged for his outstanding contributions in helping the nation maintain healthy coastal and ocean resources. He was selected from an impressive field of nominees whose dedication and hard work epitomize coastal stewardship.

The award will be presented by Bob Bailey, Oregon's delegate to the Coastal States Organization, Vice Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher of NOAA and Congressman Walter B. Jones, Jr. (R-N.C.). Kathleen Leyden of Maine's State Planning Office will also be honored.

As Assistant Secretary, Baird oversees the California Ocean Resources Management Program, which coordinates policy among state departments with coastal and ocean jurisdiction. In addition, he advises Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on policy issues and wrote "California's Ocean Resources: An Agenda for the Future," a statewide strategy for protecting and managing ocean resources.

Baird has also been instrumental in drafting the West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health Action Plan and chairs the Coastal States Organization that represents the interests of Governors from the 35 coastal states, commonwealths and territories on federal, legislative, administrative and policy issues.

About the Susan Snow-Cotter Award: The Susan Snow-Cotter Award for Excellence in Ocean and Coastal Resource Management is given to individuals who have initiated innovative practices and brought positive change to the management of ocean or coastal resources at either the state or national level.

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